



News Release

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Children rave about first Tales and Tunes



Miss Diana reads a story between songs for Tales and Tunes at the Eastside Cybrary every Wednesday.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. -- A gang of 30 young children zestfully broke the cardinal rule of all libraries yesterday by making a lot of noise at the Eastside Cybrary. They banged drums, shook maracas, sang with joyful abandon and generally had a grand time as librarians indulgently watched.

They even managed to listen to a few stories in between.

Tales and Tunes, a weekly mix of musical sing along and story reading for children, debuted Wednesday at the Eastside Cybrary to rave reviews from children and parents.

Ward 2 Councilmember Andy Melendrez requested that the library create such a program for children in his ward.

“Children at this age learn so much from musical expression and listening to stories in a group,” said Councilmember Melendrez as he braved the baffled glances of other library patrons and sat on the floor with the children. “It’s so important for growth for children ages 3 through 7. We hope more parents will come with their children.”

The pilot program will be held every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Eastside Cybrary.

“It’s a fusion of music and storytime and all the kids are up and active and involved,” said Library Director Leonhard Hernandez. “We believe everyone can benefit from participation in a quality interactive program of stories and music.”

He said that the program could go citywide if they have a hit on their hands.

Miss Diana, aka Diana Thompson, a library associate with the city, led the rousing fest of song and stories.

“We had storytimes at other locations but we haven’t had anything for the children here in quite some time,” said Miss Diana, a four-year veteran of storytimes. “So when the opportunity presented itself, we jumped on it.”

Although studies indicate that performances like Tales and Tunes teaches children about music, literacy and group interaction, Miss Diana believes there’s a simpler, more direct, lesson.

“They all had a blast!” she said.

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